

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 01654 211633Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /092 W
-----019305 220223Z /63

R 211550Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7823
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION USUN NYK

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

DAKAR AND RABAT ALSO FOR USDAO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MOPS, SS, MR, MO
SUBJECT: COMMANDER MAURITANIAN AIR FORCE REPORTEDLY SHOT DOWN

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 1624

1. ACCORDING STORY CIRUCLATING FREELY ON NOUAKCHOTT INFORMAL NEWS
CIRCUIT MAJOR MUHAMMAD WLD BAH WLD ABD AL-QAADIR,COMMANDER
OF MAURITANIN AIR FORCE (GARIM) AND HIS COPILOT WERE SHOT
DOWN BY POLISARIO SOMEWHERE NEAR ZOUERATE JULY 15. 'ABD AL-QAADIR
CRASHED LANDED HIS DEFENDER; HE AND COPILOT GOT OUT OF AIRCRAFT AND
400 METERS AWAY BEFORE DOWNED PLANE EXPLODED AND BURNED; TWO
GARIM OFFICERS KNOWING POLISARIO WERE ONLY FEWFILOMETERS AWAY
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PAGE 02 NOUAKC 01654 211633Z

SUCCEFULLY HID IN RAVINE. POLIUARIO SQUAD ARRIVED,SEARCHED
WRECK AND SURROUNDING AREA; CONCLUDED CREW HAD BEEN LOST WITH
PLANE; CHALKED POLISARIO VICTORY SLOGANS AND "NO SURVIVORS"
ON WRECK IN ARABIC AND SPANISH, AND DEPARTED. 'ABD AL-QAADIR
AND COPILOT WERE PICKED UP 24 HOURS LATER BY MAURITANIAN
GROUND PATROL.

2. VARIOUS VERSIONS (ONE OF OURS CAME FROM NOUAKCHOTT AIRPORT FLIGHT LINE PERSONNEL) AGREE THAT 'ABD AL-QAADIR WAS SEARCHING FOR REPORTED POLISARIO FORCE AND THAT POLISARIO UNIT WHICH DOWNED HIM WAS FORCE WHICH ATTACKED ZOUERATE AT DAWN NEXT DAY. THEY ALSO AGREE THAT PLANE WAS HIT BY "CANNON" (PERHAPS SOVIET 12.7MM AA MACHINE GUN) NOT SAM-7 OR SCREEN OF MACHINE GUN FIRE. VERSIONS DIFFER ON WHETHER 'ABD AL-QAADIR GOT OFF MESSAGE REPORTING SIGHTING AND LOCATION OF POLISARIO ATTACK BEFORE CRASH LANDING. DETAILS OF HIT ALSO VARY; ONE VERSION REPORTS 'BAD AL-QAADIR BLACKED OUT MOMENTARILY BEFORE CRASH LANDING PLANE; OTHERS ASSERT THAT AFTER LOSING TAIL SURFACE CONTROLS TO POLISARIO FIRE, AND RELUCANT TO ATTEMPT TO CRASH LAND WITH FULL LGAD OF ROCKETS STILL ABOARD, 'ABD AL-QAADIR CIRCLED, SALVOED ROCKETS AT POLISARIO COLUMN, AND THEN PULLED OUT TO LAND.

3. AT THIS POINT, WE ARE UNABLE TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH OF THIS STORY IS HARD FACT AND HOW MUCH IS INFORMAL NEWS CIRUCIT EMBROIDERY. SEEMS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THATHGARIM HAS LOST ANOTHER DEFENDER, AND THAT INVENTORY IS NOW TWO.

HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR FORCE, AIR COMBAT OPERATIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770733/aaaabcoe.tel
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Litigation History:
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